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SP 8172  
12-29-03



**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q64164

Akihiro SUGIYAMA

Appln. No.: 09/838,342

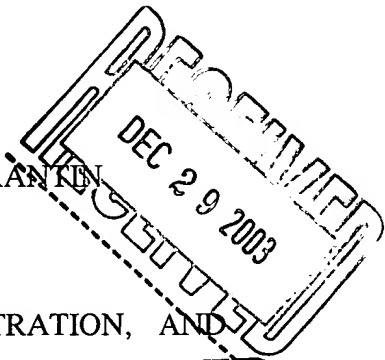
Group Art Unit: 2172

Confirmation No.: 1068

Examiner: Jean B. FLEURANTIN

Filed: April 20, 2001

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SUPPORTING USER REGISTRATION, AND  
RECORDING MEDIUM WHICH RECORDS THE SAME



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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

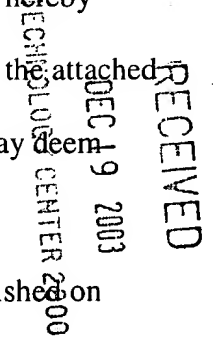
DEC 15 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Technology Center 2100

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.



1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H10-301996, published on November 13, 1998.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after either a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), but before payment of the Issue Fee, and therefore the USPTO is directed

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and authorized to charge the fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty days or fewer from the communication from a foreign patent office and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d) is attached.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding Japanese Office Action dated November 12, 2003 and an English translation thereof which cites such documents and indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

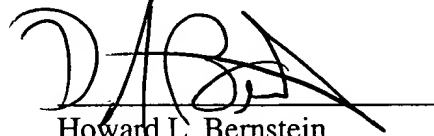
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Bernstein", is written over a horizontal line.

Howard L. Bernstein  
Registration No. 25,665

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 11, 2003



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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d)

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Technology Center 2100

Sir:

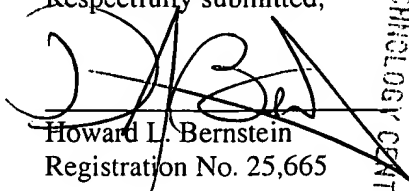
The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making a reasonable inquiry, that the communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

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Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed  
concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a  
counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information  
Disclosure Statement.

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